

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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DEPT PASS IO/SCT AND NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA NUCLEAR SAFETY STANDARDS PROGRAM

SUMMARY: 1. IAEA SECRETARIAT, IN PROCESS OF PREPARING
DOCUMENT FOR FEBRUARY BOARD GOVERNORS MEETING, HAS
SOLICITED MISSION'S VIEWS RE PROPOSAL THAT BOARD AUTHORIZE
DIRECTOR GENERAL TO PROMULGATE EACH CODE OF PRACTICE, AFTER
APPROVAL BY SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP (SAG), SUBMISSION BY SAG
TO DIRECTOR GENERAL AND CIRCULATION BY DIRECTOR GENERAL
TO BOARD MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO
PROMULGATION. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE RE USG VIEWS ON
SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION'S REVIEW OF BOARD'S DISCUSSION IN 1974 (GOV/OR.470)
OF DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MEMO TO BOARD OUTLING ORIGINAL PLAN OF
SUBJECT PROGRAM (GOV/1687) SHOWS NO REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC
MECHANISM FOR PROMULGATION OF CODES. PROCEDURE DESCRIBED
IN GOV/1687 CALLS FOR CIRCULATION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDED
BY SAG "TO MEMBER STATES" FOR THEIR COMMENTS TO BE PROVIDED
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WITHIN THREE MONTHS, SUCH COMMENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT IN PREPARATION OF "FINAL VERSION." THAT PROCEDURE
WAS TO BE FOLLOWED FOR BOTH CODES OF PRACTICE AND SAFETY GUIDES.

3. IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, PROCEDURES FOLLOWED RE CODES INCLUDES
PREPARATION OF DRAFT BY WORKING GROUP (WG) OF TWO OR THREE
EXPERTS, REVIEW AND REVISION BY TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(TRC) OF TEN TO TWELVE EXPERTS FROM MEMBER STATES WITH DEVELOPED NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF REVISED DRAFT BY SAG COMPOSED OF TWELVE INDIVIDUALS FROM MEMBER STATES WITH EXPERIENCE IN REGULATION AND FIVE INDIVIDUALS FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, CIRCULATION OF DRAFT APPROVED BY SAG TO 45 MEMBER STATES WITH DEVELOPED NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS AND 12 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCORPORATION BY TRC INTO DRAFT OF COMMENTS RECEIVED, APPROVAL OF FINAL DRAFT BY SAG AND ITS SUBMISSION TO DIRECTOR GENERAL.

4. FOREGOING PROCEDURE HAS TAKEN FULL TWO YEARS TO PRODUCE FIRST TWO CODES, ON "SITING" AND "OPERATIONS," WHICH WERE SUBMITTED BY SAG TO DIRECTOR GENERAL DECEMBER 15, 1976; THREE OTHERS, ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, DESIGN AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL DURING 1977. J. HENDRIE, BNL, IS MEMBER OF SAG, WITH R. MINOGUE, NRC, ALTERNATE. U.S. HAS ALSO BEEN WELL REPRESENTED ON WG'S AND TRC'S. MISSION UNDERSTANDS DRAFT CODES ARE CIRCULATED WIDELY IN U.S. AND THAT COMMENTS RECEIVED ARE COORDINATED AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY HENDRIE AND MINOGUE IN SAG. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION SEES NO NECESSITY, FROM STANDPOINT OF USG, FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS. SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD HOWEVER PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME MEMBERS OF BOARD WHICH WERE NOT INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING CODE TO MAKE VIEWS KNOWN. OPPORTUNITY WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED BY BOARD DISCUSSION FOR "APPEAL" BY PARTICIPANT IN SAG THROUGH HIS GOVERNMENT, IF MEMBER OF BOARD, OF PARTICULAR ISSUE ON WHICH PARTICIPANT DISAGREES WITH SAG PRODUCT. NEITHER OF THESE POSSIBILITIES IS LIKELY TO BE OF INTEREST TO USG.
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MOREOVER, IF EXERCISED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF BOARD, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT BOARD ITSELF WOULD BE ABLE TO EVALUATE LET ALONE RESOLVE ISSUES RAISED AND WOULD PROBABLY REMAND MATTER BACK TO SAG.

5. UNDER SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL, COMMENTS DIRECTOR GENERAL RECEIVES FROM BOARD MEMBERS DURING 30-DAY PERIOD PRIOR TO PROMULGATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY SECRETARIAT AND, IF NECESSARY, BY SAG. THUS, SERIOUS QUESTIONS WOULD WIND UP AT SAG IN EITHER PROCEDURE. SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL WOULD, HOWEVER, AVOID BOARD INVOLVEMENT IN FINE POINTS OF DETAIL. IN ANY EVENT, MISSION PRESUMES THAT BOARD MEMBER WHICH REMAINS UNSATISFIED THAT ITS COMMENTS HAVE RECEIVED PROPER ATTENTION COULD CALL FOR MATTER TO BE PLACED ON BOARD AGENDA.

6. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT IAEA LEGAL DIVISION HAS ADVISED THAT PROPOSED PROCEDURE WILL BE SATISFACTORY FOR PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING PROMULGATED CODES INTO IAEA'S SAFETY STANDARDS, APPLICABLE TO AGENCY'S OWN OPERATIONS AND TO AGENCY PROJECTS.

7. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION RECOMMENDS WE BE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE
IAEA SECRETARIAT THAT PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE TO USG, AND RE-
QUESTS SUCH AUTHORIZATION ASAP IN ORDER PERMIT SECRETARIAT,
IF RESULTS OF CONSULTATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS ARE POSITIVE,
ISSUE NECESSARY DOCUMENT SOON FOR ACTION AT FEBRUARY MEETING
OF BOARD.STONE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: IAEA NUCLEAR SAFETY STANDARDS PROGRAM SUMMARY: 1. IAEA SECRETARIAT, IN PROCESS OF PREPARING DOCUMENT FOR FEBRUARY BOARD GOVERNORS MEETING, HAS
TAGS: TECH, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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